

ITASCA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.
PAT MEDURE, SHERIFF

440 1st Avenue NE • Grand Rapids, MN 55744 • 218-326-3477 • FAX: 218-326-4663



August 6, 2007

**RE: Federal Communications Commission
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order**

To Whom It May Concern:

As Sheriff of Itasca County, which is a rural county in northern Minnesota, I can tell you that our Sheriff's Office dispatches for 16 rural fire departments, 4 ambulance services, and 12 first responder groups. The communication system that we have in place for notifying them of an emergency is done on a VHF paging system. If the FCC should change their rules or make an order stating that rural fire departments, ambulance services, and first responders are not capable of being able to page in a VHF frequency system, ***it will cripple us.***

Itasca County is a county of approximately 3,000 square miles, which covers a large geographical area. The manner in which we now do business is the only conceivable way for us to get emergency notification to our fire personnel, first responders, and ambulance services. Therefore, as Sheriff of Itasca County, I strongly oppose the proposed rule change.

If you should have any questions regarding my position on this matter, as Sheriff of Itasca County, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above numbers or by e-mailing me at pat.medure@co.itasca.mn.us .

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pat Medure

Itasca County Sheriff

PM:nvh